

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th August 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Commenting on the speech delivered by Lord Cranborne in Parliament on the subject of the railways in Persia, the

Persian politics.

Roznama-i-Makaddas Hablul Mateen [Calcutta] of the 4th August, says that the *Novae Vremya* observes that under the the treaty between Persia and Russia, construction of railways in Northern Persia is a privilege granted exclusively to the latter. If the Russians do not take advantage of the treaty, Russia will have no other road to the Indian Ocean. There is no doubt that England has, to some extent, been successful in curtailing the power of Russia in Persia and is even now trying to do her further harm. Russia has been the first to undertake the construction of railways in Persia, and her further progress in the undertaking may be interrupted by the joint opposition of all the Powers.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Aug. 4th, 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 24th July says that prostitutes have begun to settle in every part of the Khulna town, especially near the local Middle English School.

Prostitutes in Khulna town.

KHULNA,
July 24th, 1902.

The authorities should consider what danger the students of the school run on this account. There should be a fixed locality for bad women.

3. The *Som Prakash* [Calcutta] of the 28th July writes as follows :—

The Police Commission.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 28th, 1902.

The Police Commission has been constituted mostly of officials. It is well-known that the executive is regarded with more favour by the officials than the judiciary. We therefore doubt how much success the Police Commission will achieve in discovering the sores which afflict the police. The police never oppress white men ; and white men therefore know as much of police oppression as does the barren woman know of the pangs of childbirth. The cases of police oppression which they read in the newspapers or hear of are disbelieved by them as exaggerations. We do not therefore expect much good from the Police Commission. The independent opinions of the one or two unofficial members will be like a drop in the sea of official opinion. Again, the Viceroy's instruction that the powers of white men in the remodelled police should be kept unimpaired has nipped all our hopes of police reform in the bud.

The white official is generally patronised by the authorities ; and if he commits oppression the latter spread their ægis of protection over him, instead of trying to put down his oppression.

The European police officer's ignorance of native habits and dialects generally makes him a puppet in the hands of his native subordinates. He hears by their ears, he speaks by their tongues, and he sees by their eyes. They therefore turn him any way they please and commit oppressions in his name.

No real reform can possibly be effected in the police so long as the unholy union of judicial and executive functions in the same person will obtain in the country. As we have said above, the authorities favour the executive more than the judiciary. This has been proved in the Noakhali and Rajshahi affairs. Magistrates will continue to overlook the faults of the police, and a reformed police will be as bad as the unreformed one.

4. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August says that every man in Calcutta knows that a class of

Gunda beggars in Calcutta.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 1st, 1902.

professional Musalman *gunda* beggars extort alms from shopkeepers on the principal thoroughfares in the town. Generally they appear in batches of two or three singing and sounding the wooden sticks or iron balls in their hands. Sometimes they even quarrel with the shop-keepers. Many of them will show disgusting sights like making water in a pot and then drinking it up at once. The shop-keepers try to get rid of these men by giving them something. The *paharawallas* see all this, but do nothing. Do they fear these *gundas* ? The other day one of the *gundas* was sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment for having threatened one Swarnadhan Bandyopadhyaya at the Jagannath Ghat.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Aug. 3rd, 1902.

5. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 3rd August says that the abolition of the Konchmali police outpost in the Hooghly district has had the effect of increasing the number of theft and dacoity cases in the locality. When occasion arises, the villagers have now to go to the Pandua thana, a distance of nearly 14 miles. This is always inconvenient and sometimes impracticable. It is therefore hoped that the outpost will be re-established and the safety of the villagers thus ensured.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 30th, 1902.

6. Referring to the Puri Raja's case, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 30th July writes as follows :—

Ancient custom confers on the Raja of Puri the privilege of representing the Hindus as the *sebayet* of the Jagannath temple and the administrator and master of the Puri religious festivals. The Raja himself has no personal interest in the matter. But as a representative of the Hindus he is bound to observe in full the ancient customs of the Hindus. We have therefore been alarmed to hear that this Raja has suffered great humiliation, insult and oppression at the hands of the Magistrate of Puri for trying to discharge honestly this onerous and unrewarded duty. During the last *Rath Jatra* festival the Puri pilgrims had the misfortune not to be allowed to see the *Navx Jauvan* ceremony, and a fearful episode was enacted in connection with the *Panhundi* ceremony, which means the carrying of the idol from the temple to the car. Early on the morning of the 7th July last, the *Panhundi* day, Mr. Garrett, the Magistrate of Puri, appeared before the temple and told the Pandas and the Raja's men that the ceremony must be performed within three o'clock in the afternoon. At 2-30 P.M. the Raja informed Mr. Garrett that the ceremony could not be performed before ten in the evening. In reply the Magistrate wrote that it must be gone through within 3 P.M. or it must be altogether stopped, and that the Raja's contention was groundless. This reply was sent at 3-30 P.M. The Raja was taken aback. He again wrote to the Magistrate that according to fixed custom the performance of the ceremony could not be postponed to any other day, and that whenever there was an unusually large crowd of pilgrims it was performed at night. This letter should have brought the Magistrate to his senses and drawn his attention to the work of maintaining the peace and looking after the safety of the pilgrims. But he is a young man ignorant of the habits and thoughts of the Indians. He informed the Raja in reply that the ceremony must be performed either before 3 P.M. that day or on the following morning, and that he would never allow it to be performed at night. Thus Mr. Garrett ordered in clear language that the performance of the ceremony at night should be stopped. O that such young and inexperienced men should be given administrative powers! He did not see that he was spurning at the feelings of lakhs of people by prohibiting the performance of the ceremony at night; for the countless crowd of pilgrims painfully remembered that if the ceremony were not gone through that day, the *Rath Jatra* festival would, under *Sastri* injunction, be stopped for twelve years to come. In this extreme, the Raja wired the matter to the Divisional Commissioner and the Lieutenant-Governor soliciting orders. The order came, and the *Panhundi* ceremony was performed, to the chagrin and discomfiture of the Magistrate. The incident however left a gloom in the minds of the pilgrims, who enjoyed the ceremony with a heavy heart. The Magistrate who fails to understand that it is indiscretion and folly on the part of a ruler to wound the feelings of a loyal people engaged in a religious festival deserves not the charge of a district. But the drama did not end there. Mr. Garrett's indignation at being foiled in this way knew no bounds. His thirst for revenge incited him to issue a summons against the Raja requiring him to appear in his court on the 13th July with evidence bearing on the report which had been wired by him to the Government, and that if he disregarded the summons stringent measures would be taken to compel his appearance. One cannot fail to be astonished to see such *sulm* committed upon the Raja as if he had been guilty of murder. It is in this way that young and irresponsible officers abuse the high powers which are misplaced in their hands. The

Raja was unwell on the 13th July. He had been suffering from diarrhoea for some days past, and that day was a rainy day. His doctors forbade him to undergo any exposure. He was therefore obliged not to appear in court; and he wrote a letter to Mr. Garrett begging his pardon for non-appearance in his Court and expressing his desire to appear on any other day. But the Raja's entreaty did not soften the mind of the Magistrate, who at once issued a warrant for his arrest. With this warrant the police, mustering about twenty, proceeded to the Raja's residence, broke into his *zanana* and treated him very improperly. He has brought a case against the police under several sections of the Penal Code. The case is now *sub judice*.

7. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August says that Mr. Bainbridge, Subdivisional Officer of Godda in the Sonthal Parganas, remains most part of the year in the *mufassal* with the object of swelling his tour allowance bills. When he remains at Godda, he sleeps the whole day and comes to court at 3 or 4 P.M.

Both the Subdivisional Officer and the second officer, who are also civil judicial officers, keep each in his court a "poor box." The party which pays more into this box than the other party gains his suit. These poor boxes fetch a daily income of Rs. 20, out of which not more than Rs. 4 is spent on legitimate purposes and the remainder is misappropriated. Babu Sarat Chandra Basak, Kanungo, has also set up a "poor box" in his court. It was a novel sight to the correspondent to see justice sold in this fashion in a British law court.

8. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th August says that recently one Laksmi Mohan Saha brought a suit against Babu Ramkumar Santra, an inhabitant of the Baincha village under the Salbani thana in the Midnapore district, in the Court of the 3rd Munsif of Nadia for the recovery of Rs. 90 from the defendant. A summons came to the Midnapore Judge's Court for service on the defendant. On the 18th June last, Kazi Abdul Latif, the court peon, submitted a return to the effect that unable to find the defendant and having been informed that he had been hiding within his house, he had put up the summons and a copy of the plaint on the front door of the *baitakkhana* of the defendant's house, in the presence of the complainant's *nisandi* and four witnesses. The witnesses were inhabitants either of the Godapiasal or of the Narasinghapur village. The defendant is a well-to-do respectable man of the Baincha village. His *baitakkhana* is always full of visitors. It is, therefore, a wonder that the peon found it empty. Again, one of the witnesses is an inhabitant of the Baincha village. All this plainly shows that the work of serving the summons was secretly accomplished in either Miya Bazar or Godapiasal. The District Judge is requested to inquire into this suspicious matter. There is probably a mystery in connection with the service of the summons not less deep than that which shrouds the original case.

9. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 4th August is sorry that the Government has abolished the use of Hindi as court language in Sambalpur in the Central Provinces. The reason assigned for this is that the people of that district being mostly of Uriya origin, speak and write the Uriya language, and that they strongly protested against Hindi being the court language of the district. Our contention is that Hindi, which is the original language of the people of India ought to be made gradually court language all over the country. Hesitation of the Government in a matter like this shows great weakness on its part.

10. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 4th August writes as follows:—

The present High Court of Calcutta.

A noble desire to maintain the personal independence of the subject and to punish the delinquent underlies the principle of justice upon which the British Empire is firmly established. Oppression has therefore greatly decreased in India from the time she came under British rule. The Indian High Courts were established with the object of checking the vagaries and blunders of *mufassal* Judges. Their traditional purity, glory and independence were for a long time maintained by these High Courts. But they

HITAVADI,
Aug. 1st, 1902.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Aug. 4th, 1902.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Aug. 4th, 1902.

PRATIVASI,
Aug. 4th, 1902.

are now fallen. They are at the beck and call of the governors of the country.

Dilatoriness has been a conspicuous feature of the working of the Calcutta High Court. But it has now become so great that the number of cases pending before it has risen to seven thousand. Cases stand so long on the cause boards that the ink in which they are written is found to fade away, and they have to be written again. The increase in the number of the Hon'ble Judges will not mend this. Their utter worthlessness is well-known to everyone who has any knowledge or experience of the matter. We cannot understand how one can be a good Judge without possessing a good memory. But a Judge of the High Court will ask a Counsel which party he represents after hearing him argue for three long days. When two Judges sit together it frequently so happens that one has written his judgment while the other has not been able to go through even the judgments of the lower Courts. The abler Judge has therefore to spend much time in explaining the case to the other. A High Court Judge has recorded the opinion that because a god does not die of hunger, a *Sebayet* is not legally bound to incur debts for making offerings of food to him. Can any one expect a High Court Judge to make such a preposterous statement? One does not meet with a Phear, a Markby, a Wilson, an Ainslie or even a Jenkins or a Stanley in the present High Court. Goodwill and love of justice seem to have disappeared from that Court. In motion cases senior barristers are heard first. Certain Judges are too partial to Counsel to recognise Vakils at all. If a junior Vakil has an appeal against a sentence of 7 days' imprisonment, he cannot get it promptly heard without supplicating senior Vakils to do him the favour of waiting till he has done.

(d)—Education.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 30th, 1902.

11. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 30th July says that the recommendations of the

The suggestions of the Universities Commission.

Universities Commission which have oozed out through the press are really alarming. Many people think that it is intended to lay the axe at the root of high education; while many others believe that the present rapid spread of high education is not considered by the Government to be safe. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the report should be published without delay. It will not become an enlightened Government to decide a matter which so closely concerns the public, without consulting public opinion.

NAVA YUG,
Aug. 2nd, 1902.

12. Referring to the friction which recently occurred between Mr. Jackson

The case of the Professor and students of the Presidency College.

and the B. Course students of the 4th Year Class of the Presidency College, Calcutta, and the punishment which has been awarded to the latter by the Principal of the College, the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August says that whilst punishing the students the Principal should also have considered Mr. Jackson's behaviour towards the students. Did Mr. Jackson act rightly by compelling a student to remain standing for half an hour at the top of the gallery? Such punishments are fit only for little boys. He could have fined the student.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 2nd, 1902.

13. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August says that from the

The Universities Commission.

speeches which Lord Curzon delivered in different places on Indian University education, we understood that he intended to remove all the defects of that education, but we see that the Universities Commission has quite a different object in view. If the recommendations of the Commission be adopted, there will be no more high education in India.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

PALLIVASI,
July 23rd, 1902.

14. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 23rd July says that for some years

The Kalna Municipality.

past a fisherwoman named Ambika had been holding the lease of two municipal tanks in Kalna. During that time she never paid rent, nor did the Municipality seek to realise it. At last a civil decree was obtained against her by the Municipality for

Rs. 277 as rent and interest, but only about Rs. 100 was realised from her with great difficulty. The rest is unrealisable. Who is responsible for this loss of nearly Rs. 200 to the Municipality? Can the Municipal Vice-Chairman give a reply to this question?

15. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st August says that a conflict has recently arisen between the Bankura Municipality and the District Board on the question of constructing *pucca* drains, about half-a-mile long, alongside the part of the Provincial road which lies within the Municipality. It is the District Board's road, but the Municipality reaps the benefit of that portion of it. Which among them will therefore bear the expense? Both decline to bear it. It is therefore feared that the sufferings of the rate-payers on the score of the drains will not be removed. Why does not Government undertake to do the work? Mr. B. De, the worthy District Magistrate, is the best man to solve this question. But he should bear in mind that the Municipality is very poor.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Aug. 1st, 1902.

16. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August says that the people who thought that the new Municipal Act would improve the health of Calcutta have now come to see their mistake. Even the *Englishman* newspaper, which at the time of the passing of the Act saw nothing but faults in the old system and was unstinted in its praise of the new measure, is unable to shut its eye to the state of things prevailing under the new regime. It has, in its issue of the 24th July last, severely criticised the remissness of the municipal underlings, which has made the greater part of Calcutta uninhabitable for stretch and want of conservancy. In describing the condition of the Kansaripara quarter of Bhowanipore, the *Englishman* finds it impossible for the sake of decency to tell everything openly, but characterises the working of the conservancy and drainage departments as most "scandalous" and as giving proof of "the most culpable neglect?" Will the *Englishman's* whip rouse the municipal authorities to their senses?

HITAVADI,
Aug. 1st, 1902.

17. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 3rd August says that the work of Babu Mahendra Chandra Mitra, the Chairman of the Hooghly and Chinsura Municipality, has created great dissatisfaction among the Municipal Commissioners and the rate-payers. He is creating a great scandal by supporting a clerk on Rs. 40, and by wasting public money. The men of lead and light in the place have desired to approach the Divisional Commissioner to protest against the appointment of the above clerk to the Engineer Secretaryship under the Municipality on a salary of nearly Rs. 200 including horse allowance. The Chairman of the Chinsura Rate-payers' Association has protested against this appointment, and requested the Municipal Chairman to raise the question at the next meeting of the Commissioners. When a passed student of an Engineering College can be had for Rs. 200, a clerk on Rs. 40, who has neither academic distinction nor engineering knowledge, should not be appointed to the post.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Aug. 3rd, 1902.

18. The Sub-Registrar of Anandapur in the Midnapore district writes in the *Medini Bandhan* [Midnapore] of the 4th August that cholera is raging virulently in that village. Thirty-two people have died within a week, and 6 or 7 are lying in a precarious condition. Deaths are taking place within 10 or 12 hours from the attacks. The population of the village is nearly 3,000, consisting mainly of poor people. Medical aid is unavailable. On the 25th July last the District Magistrate was petitioned for a doctor, but no aid has come as yet. The editor hopes that the kind-hearted Magistrate will hear the prayer of the villagers.

MEDINI BANDHAN,
Aug. 4th, 1902.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

19. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 24th July says that although tickets continue to be sold for the Chhagaladaha, Chhachiadaha and Nagarkandi stations on the Barisal steamer line, the steamer has ceased to stop at those stations for some days. There is no place at the Khulna steamer *ghât* where passengers

KHULNA,
July 24th, 1902.

may take shelter in bad weather. In the rains those who have to purchase tickets or weigh luggages, stand exposed to the showers with women and children for 15 or 20 minutes. Their misery may, therefore, be easily conceived. The authorities have more than once been petitioned to remove this hardship, but to no effect. The District Magistrate should call the attention of Messrs. Kilburn & Co., the owners of the steamer station, to this matter.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 1st, 1902.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August says that at nightfall on the 21st July last, two women who intended to travel by rail from the Bheramara to the Mirpur station, took refuge in the goods shed in the former station on account of rain. The shed-keeper saw this, and accompanied by another man went up to the women and made an improper proposal to them. The women not consenting, the two men threatened to detain them at the station the whole night. The women then purchased their tickets, which were numbered 5494 and 5495 respectively, and waited near the garden of the station for the train. The two men, Sew Narayan Singh and Guru Dayal Tewari, again approached them and renewed their proposal, which was again refused. The men then attempted to remove the women to some other place by force. One of the women, after a considerable struggle, released herself and ran to the Assistant Station Master and informed him of all that had happened. This officer immediately went to the spot where the other woman was struggling with the two men. On his appearance, the latter let the women alone. The Assistant Station Master recorded the statements of the women in his diary,

HITAVADI.

21. The same paper says that no importance should be attached to the testimonial signed by the Subdivisional Officer, the Munsif and other respectable people of Beguserai, which Babu Gopal Chandra Ghosh, Station Master of Beguserai, has submitted to his superior officers in connection with the enquiry which is being held into the complaints which were published against him in this paper (Report on Native Papers for the 24th May 1902, paragraph 21). The signatories to the testimonial are, by their very position, precluded from knowing whether the Station Master used to take bribes from the traders and merchants who had to transmit goods by rail, and whether or not he used to ill-treat passengers. The Subdivisional Officer, the Munsif or the respectable pleaders cannot be expected to be ill-treated or subjected to extortion by the Station Master. The testimonial, again, was signed by many who do not know English, the language in which it was written, and could, therefore, have no knowledge of its contents, and also by those who were not shown its contents. In many cases, also, the signatories put in their names out of sheer pity for the Station Master, who personally went about begging for signatures. The writer thinks that many pleaders who have signed the testimonial will, if questioned privately, decline to support what is stated in the testimonial.

Babu Nrisinha Chandra Ghosh, pleader, and Babu Prabodh Chandra Gupta, school master, can speak to the truth of the complaint in regard to the Civil Surgeon of Darbhanga. The Civil Surgeon himself may also be examined.

The charge of corruption can be easily proved by reference to the account books of the traders and merchants.

The testimonial is signed by at least one man, who is under an obligation to the Station Master. During the outbreak of plague at the station last year, Gopal Babu allowed his friend Babu Tinkari Sen Gupta, a pleader, to put up for some time, against Railway rule, in one of the station buildings. And this Tinkari Babu has signed the testimonial. On the same occasion, the Station Master also allowed Narendra Babu, a Settlement Officer, to reside in a station building.

In deciding the complaints against Gopal Babu, notice should also be taken of his past record in the service, which is not a clean one.

It may be pointed out in this connection that when Gopal Babu was going about from door to door begging for signatures to the testimonial, he reported himself sick to his superior officer and obtained leave on this false pretext.

Recently, a Musalman gentleman did not get delivery of his personal luggage at the station till two days after his arrival.

Babu Lalji Prasad, Saristadar of the munsif's Court, did not get delivery of a parcel, which arrived on the 12th July, till four days later, and then only after a peremptory demand.

22. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Tippera] of the 5th August complains of the want of a shelter on the platform of the Laksam junction station on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

A railway grievance.

People have often to wait for trains for more than an hour on this open platform. They consequently suffer much in bad weather. There is a small ill-accommodating waiting room on the other side of the railroad, but that has to be reached by an over-bridge. Passengers have therefore to cross and recross if they wish to wait in the room and afterwards catch a train. But this they do not think at all convenient. The Railway authorities should consider this matter.

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,
Aug. 5th, 1902.

(h)—General.

23. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 30th July writes as follows:—

The Puri incident.

According to a custom obtaining in Puri town the *Panhundi* ceremony should be performed on the *Rath Jatra* day. Although the drawing of the car may be deferred till the following day, the *Panhundi* cannot be deferred. People are therefore anxious to know what explanation Mr. Garrett has submitted to the Government, and in what light Government has taken the dishonouring of the custom and the interference with the religious ceremonies connected with the *Rath Jatra* involved in the order forbidding the *Panhundi* after 3 P.M. on the day of the ceremony. It is hoped that the public feeling in this connection will soon be allayed by the Government.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 30th, 1902.

24. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 4th August has the following in its English columns:—

Gubernatorial tours.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 4th, 1902.

The Government of India is constituted on principles which are peculiar to this country alone. At the head stands the Governor-General, who comes out here for a term of five years. He is an utter stranger, whose sole qualifications consist in his belonging to one or the other party in England. He does not know India or her peoples, except in very rare cases. Political considerations rather than individual fitness determine his appointment. Next to him come the Governors of the several Provinces into which the Continent is parcelled out for administrative purposes. They also hold office for five summers. Two of them, *viz.*, the Governors of Bombay and Madras, come directly from England much in the same way as the Governor-General, and have generally no direct knowledge about Indian affairs. The Lieutenant-Governors of the other Provinces are indeed recruited from the Civil Service. But India is so vast a country and presents so many peculiarities of customs, manners and even of laws in different parts that the Member of one Province is not expected to know much of another. But in making appointments, these considerations are often completely ignored; but assuming that there is nothing to object to on that ground, every Province is a country by itself. Its concerns extend over a wide range and present complications which require a skill and a mastery of details which can only be acquired by constant and careful study among the peoples concerned. In the ordinary routine of official work, informations pass up and down the graded channels which exhibit wonderful administrative symmetry and ostensibly form a connecting link between the rulers and the ruled. But in practice they are as far apart as it is possible for them to be. The connecting links often disconnect the termini. Popular sentiment is not unfrequently misrepresented, their grievances minimised or ignored, and the unsuspecting ruler is often kept in blissful ignorance. We do not certainly mean that this is done of a set purpose. But our contention is that the local authorities are generally so far out of touch with the people in general that they generally lack that clear vision and sound judgment which alone can enable them to represent popular sentiment. We believe, it is for all these reasons that it has been made a part of a

Governor's duty to undertake annual tours through such parts of the country as may require his personal inspection. It is essential to a successful administration that the administrator should be able to feel the people's pulse in all matters affecting their well-being. It is, therefore, with anxious expectancy that people look forward to a Governor's visit to their parts. But it is sad to contemplate their utter disappointment when the Governor leaves them after being feted in right royal fashion.

We are constrained to make these observations in consideration of the regrettable effect which the late visit of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to this town has left upon the public mind. It was an occasion of universal rejoicings, and if the people joined in them, it was in the hope that it would lead to some tangible good to them. But His Honour came and went away without making any the least appreciable difference in their lot. The visit merely afforded an occasion to the rich and the wealthy to cultivate the goodwill of the omnipotent ruler. They feted and feasted him with all the pomp that their means could command. The local bodies, more or less officialised, presented addresses glowing with high panegyrics,—the customary bait to obtain a meed of praise for themselves in return.

Those in favour were introduced to His Honour, who exchanged words or glances with them to the immense satisfaction of their itching souls. His Honour was driven to this place or that, and saw all that was shown him through the official glasses. He laid the foundation stone of a boarding house and that of a school of engineering, and thus concluded his long looked for visit. But where were the people who paid for the day's work? The Municipality is fed by the rate-payers—the District Board by the immense mass who live far into the interior. Where were they? The ratepayers condemned the working of the present Municipality. His Honour was pleased to compliment the Chairman that since he assumed its charge, it was doing better—much better indeed! It is only natural that the head should extol the limb. But did His Honour care to enquire what the ratepayers had to say? Were any of their representatives found out and interrogated about the matter? His Honour did not certainly go through some of the lanes and byelanes of the town, and if the official assurance was enough for him, the people might as well be spared the cost of receiving a Governor and His Honour avoid the risk to his health and comfort. They say the Dacca Municipality is in a bad way. Was any enquiry made into the real state of things? If not, to what was the inspection directed?

These are of course matters of detail. But details have to be looked to to ascertain the working of the principles. Indeed these official tours have in a manner lost all practical importance and form part of that noisy pomp which is so characteristic a feature of the British rule in India at present. Sir John Woodburn has an agreeable personality—charming beyond that of average rulers. His charm lies in his frank profession of sympathies with the people, but we beg to repeat what has been said time and again, that mere sympathies do not reach deeper than the ears into which they are poured.

III.—LEGISLATION.

M. HIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 1st, 1902.

25. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 1st August congratulates Khan Bahadur Maulavi Golam Quasem on his appointment as a member of the Khulna District Board, and desires to see him honoured with a membership of the Bengal Legislative Council. It is true a Musalman member is always to be found in the Council, but he is kept only to keep up a show. For he is invariably a town man, quite ignorant of the wants and grievances of his mufassal brethren. The Bengal Musalmans therefore hope that Government will nominate an able mufassal Musalman like the Khan Bahadur to represent them in the Council. He knows the real wants and grievances of mufassal people, and he enjoys great respect and confidence in the mufassal. He is on the District Board of his own district, the 24-Parganas, and on that of the Khulna district.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

26. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 29th July has the following :—

CHARU MIHIR,
July 29th, 1902.

On the evening of the 26th July came the news that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was unwell and that he would not be able to come to Mymensingh on the 24th, but would come on the 25th. The Government Secretary wired on the 25th that the proposed visit was given up.

There had been erected here and there on the public streets triumphal arches that kissed the high heavens, but His Honour's carriage did not drive beneath them. On both sides of the streets there stood parallel rows of plantain trees bearing flags, while hundreds of flags fluttered gaily from the masts of the boats on the river. But they waited in vain to greet the ruler of the land. What was eagerly expected to be seen in the Town Hall was not seen. It was in vain that the school, the college, the court, the prison, the hospital, and the play ground decorated themselves. The neighbouring zamindars came for nothing, and the hope of the eager populace ended in despair. A thousand lights had been collected to set off the new decorations of the town, but gathered in heaps in dark rooms their sight was sorrowful. The memory of this sad disappointment will last in Mymensingh for ever. Never before had the men of Mymensingh felt a disappointment so sad.

27. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 30th July says that the Subdivisional Officer of

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 30th, 1902.

The Subdivisional Officer of Raniganj and the Victoria Memorial Fund.

Raniganj has been sending letters to many people within his jurisdiction with a view of raising subscriptions for the Victoria Memorial Fund. The *Daily News* has published this letter. The Subdivisional Officer has also ruled that any one receiving this letter must acknowledge its receipt. Whether all this has received the sanction of the Government is not known; probably it has. It does not, however, seem to be a good method of making people show their loyalty.

28. The special correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 31st

SANJIVANI,
July 31st, 1902.

The Anglo-Indian papers on Prince Wazif Ali Shah's return from England.

July, writing from Murshidabad, says that whilst every body in Murshidabad has been glad at the return of the Prince Wazif Ali Shah of Murshidabad from England, the editors of Anglo-Indian papers are writing very impertinently about the Prince's return before the Coronation. The editors of the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News* have plainly written :—"The Prince is coming back to India on the plea of indisposition." As if the Prince was not really indisposed, but finding it inconvenient to stay in England for a long period, left that country on the false excuse of ill-health. It has been very wrong of the Anglo-Indian editors to speak of the Prince in this manner.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August writes as follows :—

HITAVADI,
Aug. 1st, 1902.

The Coronation festivities.

However acute the distress in the country and however pinching the poverty with which we are afflicted, we are prepared to forget all our sufferings in a mad festive merriment. The festivities, when concluded, will leave us immersed in the same gloom in which we were plunged before; only those who have the power will attract the admiring gaze of many by their openhanded liberality, while some will have made a considerable advance in the direction of poverty and loss of power.

Our history-loving Viceroy is passionately fond of antiquities. The 26th January next will be exactly a hundred years since the date on which the Government House first became the residence of the Governor-General of India. The Viceroy therefore proposes to give a ball in the Viceregal House on that date in connection with the Coronation festivities, and further to mark his sense of historic fitness proposes to array himself and others in the antique masquerade in which the guests in the Viceregal House danced that day a hundred years ago. But will the antique feeling subsisting between the rulers and the ruled be also resuscitated with the antique costume? Will the old feeling of affection and confidence, of love and respect that each felt for the other be also revived? The Englishman in those days did not hate the

native, but tried to spread education in the country and otherwise effect its improvement and to bring about good feeling between the rulers and the ruled. But in these days the Englishman generally looks down upon the native as an inferior being. Native progress is a sight not pleasing to their eye, and native enterprise is looked upon as competition with Englishmen. Nor has the Indian any faith any longer in the Englishman. The officials have lost the confidence of the people by breaking their pledges in many matters, such as the Famine Fund and the Road Cess. The festivities will have served a useful purpose if they succeed in bringing about the old feeling of affection between the ruler and the ruled or if, at any rate, the Viceroy himself be anxious to bring about a revival of that feeling. The mere donning of antique costume will do the Indians no good whatever.

The Coronation festivities will cease on the 26th January next. Hushed will be then the music of fifes, flutes and trumpets, and extinguished the blaze of the festive lights. These festivities will thus be to us like a mirage in a dreary desert, like a transient flash of lightening in a clouded sky. That is why we say these festivities will not satisfy the desire we feel in our heart of hearts.

Festivities are a mere outward show and no expression of real feeling. Rejoicings on the occasion of the installation of our Emperor on the throne are natural, but we say now, as we have said before, that this joy does not seem to be a heartfelt joy.

Will the loud din of merriment at the Delhi Darbar, resounding through the country, be able to make us forget the groans of the poor, the wailings of the famished, or the sighs of those who are in despair? If it does not make us forget all this, what will be the value of our rejoicings?

Nobody is prepared to say that no festivities should be held. But the people of the country had an impression that it is the State that should bear the expenses of such festivities. If the people are made to contribute towards their expenses, their rejoicing will suffer a check.

If the people now hear that the taxes will be remitted this year, that the poor will receive alms, the hungry food, and the sick medical help, there will be witnessed sincere rejoicing, and that enthusiasm, the lack of which is going to render the Coronation festivities a languid and lifeless demonstration, will be visible from Afghanistan to Burmah, from the Himalayan valleys, to the shores of the Indian Ocean.

30. The same paper has the following:—

The Indians and the expenses of the Coronation festivities.

It has been decided that a lakh of rupees will be required for the festivities which will be held in Calcutta in January next in celebration of the King-Emperor's Coronation. People who never give a handful of rice to a street beggar will certainly, for the sake of making themselves a name or for pleasing the authorities, come forward with their subscriptions to raise the sum. But, if the financial condition of Government does not admit of its paying for those festivities, and if they must be paid for by private persons, would it not have been better, instead of raising a large amount by subscription to meet their cost, to direct each subject to hold what festivities he could afford to pay for in his own house? Would this have detracted from the prestige of the Government? It is a thing never heard of before for the subject people to pay, by raising a subscription, the expenses of the festivities that will be held to celebrate the Emperor's Coronation.

The demand would not have been considered unreasonable if the people had been in a prosperous condition and had not perpetually suffered from famine. But to raise subscriptions for a festive purpose from the people, millions of whom are dying of starvation, is a thing which is possible only in India. The authorities want the Indians to bear the expenses of the Indian guests in England, of the Delhi Darbar, and also of the celebrations to be held in Calcutta, including the feeding of the poor. And the Indians, loyal subjects as they are, will submissively carry out the mandate of their rulers. Their deep grief at the death of Her late Majesty induced them to subscribe handsomely for a memorial in her honour; their joy at the coming Coronation of their new King-Emperor will also lead them to subscribe for the festivities to be held on the occasion. But, when they think that they have to find all this

money by depriving themselves and their wives and children of their daily food, can their loyalty to the Crown increase? Heaven only can tell how long the Indians will be able to live under demands coming so incessantly from the authorities.

URIYA PAPERS.

31. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 26th July, and the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 24th July state that plentiful showers of rain have helped the agriculturists of the Division to proceed with their work smoothly, though the latter is of opinion that more rain is required to make tanks and other sources of water-supply useful for the remaining months of the year.

UTKALDIPIKA,
July 26th, 1902.
SAMVAD VAHIKA,
July 24th, 1902.

32. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 24th July states that considering that the military expenditure in India has increased from 16 crores in 1884 to 27 crores in 1902, it is inadvisable that India should be required to pay the additional crore which the British authorities are going to impose on it. The writer exhorts all the provinces of India to submit representations on the subject to the British Parliament.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
July 24th, 1902.

33. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 26th July is of opinion that the expenses incurred by the India Office in London in granting a royal reception to the Indian nobles and others in connection with the Emperor's Coronation should be borne by the English people, and that poverty-stricken India should not be required to pay any part of the cost.

UTKALDIPIKA,
July 26th, 1902.

34. The same paper draws the attention of the Cuttack District Board to the fact that the road from Cuttack to Machgon is an important district communication and that travellers bound for Jagatsingpur, Tirtol, Balikada and other places generally halt at Dogachhia, an important point on that road, and there water their horses and cattle. The well and tank, the main sources of water-supply at that place, are in a wretched condition, and unless they are repaired and made useful at the cost of the District or Local Board, much inconvenience and discomfort to travellers will continue to exist. The writer submits that the matter should engage the immediate attention of the district authorities, especially as the well and tank may be rehabilitated at a small cost.

UTKALDIPIKA.

35. All the native papers of Orissa pray that the Coronation of the Emperor be made complete on the 9th August next without any hindrance or obstacle, and that the Emperor be spared to rule his subjects for a large number of years.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

36. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 26th July regrets to notice the death of the Maharani of Bijoy-nagar, who died at the age of 73, and who by her ability and good character had endeared herself to her subjects, who are now sincerely and affectionately mourning her loss.

UTKALDIPIKA,
July 26th, 1902.

37. Referring to a notice of the Cuttack Collector that no revenue will be received from zemindars after the *Latbandi* day, the same paper points out that though the public are accustomed to such notices, it behoves the District Collector to learn from the defaulting zemindars the real causes of their inability to pay the revenue in time, and then to take the steps which are open to him under the law. The writer further points out that the value of the land is falling, as is evidenced by the purchase value of certain estates that were put up to auction in the present month for the realisation of arrears of land revenue.

UTKALDIPIKA.

38. Referring to the deputation of 36 constables and two Sub-Inspectors of Police, belonging to the Cuttack Police, to Puri to help the Puri Police in their duties during, the *Rath Jatra*, the same paper regrets to find that while the Puri Police attempted to prosecute two Cuttack constables on charges of bribery and extortion, some of the Cuttack constables lodged a complaint before the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, that they had been assaulted by the Inspector of Police, Puri. The writer considers it very

UTKALDIPIKA.

unfortunate that the two Police forces should treat each other in this way, and hopes that some higher authority will try to find out the real cause of this bad feeling.

UTKALDIPKA,
July 26th, 1902.

39. The same paper states that a great sensation prevails in Puri on account of the very questionable treatment accorded to the Raja of Puri by the Magistrate of that district.

The Puri Raja's case.

It is stated that Mr. Garrett, the Officiating Magistrate of Puri, summoned the Raja of that place to appear before him to give evidence in connection with certain telegrams that the Raja had sent to the Commissioner and Government.

The Raja submitted that as the weather was bad and as he was indisposed, another date might be fixed for his appearance. On the following day, Babu Narain Das Banerji, the Police Inspector, and Babu Sudersan Das, the Sub-Deputy Collector, proceeded with a warrant to the Raja's palace and informed his servants that they were authorised to arrest the Raja and produce him before the Magistrate in due time. The servants ran into the inner apartments to inform their master of what had happened in the interval. The Raja delayed to come out and meet the arresting officers, and this so enraged the latter that they broke open four or five doors and dragged the Raja out of his zanana apartment. He was, however, released on the security of Babu Gokulananda Chowdhry, a Pleader, who undertook to produce the Raja before the Magistrate within two hours. The Raja has brought these incidents to the notice of the Commissioner, while one of his agents has filed criminal cases against the Police Inspector and the Sub-Deputy Collector, and attempts have been made to move the High Court to transfer these cases to another district for trial. The Raja further intends to bring the matter to the notice of Government and to file suits for damages in Civil Courts. The writer requests the Government to go through the details of the case and give such relief to the Raja as he deserves, thereby preventing him from running into Criminal and Civil Courts, which, as a man of honour, he is bound to do.

UTKALDIPKA.

40. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the same paper states that the Managing Committee of the Jagatsingpur Hospital

The Jagatsingpur hospital.

do not pay that attention to the institution which it deserves and hopes that the members of that Committee will bestir themselves, especially as a good doctor has now taken charge of the institution for a temporary period.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 9th August, 1902.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.